

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4-7 and 9-11 are amended and claims 2 and 3 are cancelled. Support for these amendments can be found in paragraph [0033] of the Applicants specification, for example. No new matter is added by these amendments. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §112, Sixth Paragraph

The Office Action alleges that claims 1-4, 6 and 9-11 invoke 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 3 are cancelled thus rendering the allegation moot with regard to these claims. In addition, claims 1, 4, 6 and 9-11 are amended to remove "means plus function" language.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph is not invoked by this Amendment.

35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 3 are cancelled thus rendering the rejection moot with regard to these claims. In addition, claims 1, 4-6 and 9 are amended to remove "means plus function" language. Also, claims 1 and 9 are amended to provide sufficient antecedent basis for the recited features. Lastly, claim 5 is amended to define an end portion of a honeycomb structure as a point of reference for the angle of view of the laser oscillator and the image pick-up unit.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects:

- claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,811,737 to Fukuta et al. (hereinafter "Fukuta") in view of JP 09-085481 to Onodera et al. (hereinafter "Onodera");
- claims 2, 4 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fukuta in view of Onodera and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,557,773 to Bonzo; and
- claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fukuta in view of Onodera and further in view of JP 01-233083 to Kanehara et al. (hereinafter "Kanehara").

Fukuta and Onodera fail to disclose or render obvious a processing position controller that positions the laser from the laser oscillator so as to cut the bonded tape into an intended shape based on the picked image.

Instead Fukuta discloses that holes are formed in a sheet by a piercing function performed by laser processing. (See Fukuta's col. 3, lines 52-55). In addition, Onodera discloses a laser welder with reflection mirrors to provide a compact device for use by an operator. (See Onodera's Abstract). In contrast, the present claimed invention picks up an image from the image pick-up unit. Then, the laser oscillator is positioned so as to cut the bonded tape into an intended shape based on the picked image. (See Applicants' specification, paragraph [0027]).

In addition, claims 4-11 are patentable for their dependence on claim 1 as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 4-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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